

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 MCT-01 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 EA-07 /068 W

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R 081102Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7004

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 5843

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, XM, AR, CI, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO TERRORISM IN LATIN AMERICA

1. SOVIET CHARGE SAZHENEV INVITED US POLCOUNS TO LUNCH AT SOVIET EMBASSY SEPT 6. OVER SUMPTUOUS SPREAD (WHICH APPARENTLY WAS SUPPOSED TO VOUCH FOR HOST'S OWN CONVIVIAL INTENTIONS), CHARGE HELD FORTH ON NEED TO CONTINUE US-SOVIET DETENTE, WHICH, HE SAID, "ONLY IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS SUCH AS CHINESE WARMONGERS ARE INTERESTED IN WRECKING." OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. SOVIET POSITION IN LA. CHARGE SAID HE HAD JUST READ INTERVIEW IN WHICH PRESIDENT PINOCHET OF CHILE SUGGESTED MOSCOW WAS BEHIND TERRORISM IN LA. THIS WAS NOT TRUE, CHARGE PROTESTED; ON CONTRARY, SOVIETS FAVOR "PEACEFUL PATH TO SOCIALISM" AND ARE OPPOSED TO TERRORIST TACTICS IN LA--WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS RESULT OF "BOURGEOIS INFANTILISM" AND FAILURE TO APPRECIATE DYNAMICS OF HISTORY. CHARGE ARGUED THAT ALLENDE'S ELECTION IN CHILE HAD CONFIRMED VALIDITY OF SOVIET THESIS. MIR AND OTHER LEFTIST-EXTREMIST GROUPS, HOWEVER, HAD BEHAVED IRRESPONSIBLY AND PLACED ALLENDE IN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION. HIS FALL, THEN, RESULTED NOT FROM CONTRADICTIONS IN SOVIET THEORETICAL CONTRUCTS BUT PRECISELY FROM MISTAKES OF "LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS SUPPORTED BY CHINESE."

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3. ARGENTINA. IN SAME CONTEXT, CHARGE WENT ON TO SAY ERP

IS COMPLETELY MISTAKEN IN ITS APPROACH, JUST AS WAS MIR
IN CHILE. "IT WOULD BE DISASTER FOR ARGENTINA, FOR MOSCOW
AND FOR WASHINGTON," HE SAID, "SHOULD SUCH PEOPLE EVER
ACHIEVE POWER." SAZHENEV NOTED THAT, AS SOVIETS AND ORTHODOX
COMMUNIST PARTY (PCA) HAD FEARED, TERRORISM FROM LEFT IS
PRODUCING COUNTERTERRORISM FROM RIGHT, WHICH, IN TURN, COULD
LEAD TO CLIMATE CONDUSIVE TO BANNING PCA AGAIN AND TAKING
REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST OTHER "DEMOCRATIC FORCES". SAZHENEV
NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HERE SEES NO ALTERNATIVE
TO PRESIDENT VIDELA. INDEED, PRINCIPAL FEAR IS THAT HE WILL
FALL AND BE REPLACED BY HARDLINER OF PINOCHET STRIPE. THAT,
OF COURSE, COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN ARGENTINE-
SOVIET RELATIONS, CHARGE CONCLUDED.
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